

Borough of Ben Avon Heights

Wednesday November 11, 2015 - Council Meeting Minutes

The meeting of council was held at Shannopin Country Club at 7:00 P.M.

A quorum is in attendance.

Present:

Council Members: Berardi, Cuteri, Davis, Keelan, Kolenda

Mayor: Dismukes

Tucker Arnsberg: Vogel

Ohio Twp. Police: Sgt. Beck

Lennon Smith Souleret: Firek, Stanton

Secretary/Treasurer: Raves

Residents: Robert Eadie, John Radcliffe

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 PM by Mr. Davis.

1. Vote to approve September Minutes: Mr. Davis ***made a motion*** to approve the September Minutes as presented to Council earlier by E-mail. ***Mr. Keelan seconds the motion.*** Mr. Davis informed Council that West View Water has obtained the proper Street Opening Permits for their work on Wilson, Oxford and Courtney Mill Roads; however, Mr. Davis is concerned that they will run out of time to get the asphalt installed. Mr. Firek stated that we can get asphalt till Christmas, but the weather will need to cooperate. Mr. Davis informed Council that West View Water did not trench Courtney Mill Road on our side of the street due to the location of two gas lines. Mr. Davis is working with the contractor on that project to see how much paving they could do along that roadway for \$10,000. This would save us some money regards to crew mobilization and the facts that if the work is below that dollar figure we would not need to bid the project. Council agreed with this course of action. ***The motion passed unanimously.***
2. Vote to approve the September and October Treasurers Reports: Mr. Davis ***made a motion*** to approve the September and October Reports that were submitted to Council by email. ***Mr. Berardi seconds the motion.*** Mr. Davis questioned the \$32,000 check to the Authority in Improvements to Municipalities. Mrs. Raves noted that is the final payment of the 2009 A.I.M. loan. Then Mr. Davis questioned the balance of the Liquid Fuels account... Mrs. Raves noted that it is currently standing nearly empty since the money for the year was spent for road salt earlier in the year. Then Mr. Davis questioned the \$14,437 payment from the Sewage Account. Mrs. Raves noted that was the quarterly payment to Alcosan for sewage that

the Borough pays and the residents then reimburse through Jordan Tax Services. **The motion passed unanimously.**

3. **Police Report:** Sargent Beck noted there was a water line break, Traffic (parking) problem and a false fire alarm. There was a notice forwarded to the community regarding break-ins in Ben Avon Borough which was discussed.
4. **Fire Report:** No one attended to file this report. Meeting dates were reviewed with the intention of using the Avalon Fire Department for months that Shannopin Country Club was closed on Tuesdays in 2016. Council approved this course of action, Mrs. Raves will discuss with the Fire Company. The “Council elects” were in attendance and agreed that the 2nd Tuesday of the month would be agreeable. Mr. Vogel will make sure meetings outside of the Borough are acceptable.
5. **EMS Report:** No representative was in attendance from NorthWest EMS. Mr. Davis noted we could change the contract to renew in perpetuity and as long as there was a cancellation clause. Council was in agreement with this course of action. Mr. Cuteri **made a motion to** approve the contract as revised by Mr. Vogel. **Mr. Davis seconds the motion.** Council entered into Executive Session at 7:23 PM. The meeting resumed at 7:28 PM.
The decision to approve the contract was tabled till additional information is gathered.

6. **Public Comment:** Mr. Eadie was interested in the data collected from the traffic box on Canterbury Road from June 17 – June 23, 2015 and August 21 - 30th. Sgt. Beck delivered that data to Mr. Eadie and the Borough. Mr. Davis suggested that the Borough paint a yellow line in the middle of Canterbury Road as a traffic calming device. It seems to have helped along Wilson Drive. Council agreed this action was worth a try.
7. **Engineer Report:** Mr. Firek and Mr. Stanton reviewed their perspective regarding the new (COA) Consent Order and Agreement forwarded to the Borough for approval by Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection. Mr. Stanton informed Council of the actions of the Alcosan regulatory update meeting he attended and reported that they are negotiating a consent decree with the Federal EPA to improve the Allegheny County Combined Sewer system. Part of that consent decree includes Source Flow Reduction. Federal Government wants Flow Targets by January 2016 and municipal flow targets by January 2017. The Federal government is expecting ALCOSAN to regionalize the parts of the tributary area.

Mayor Dismukes asked Mr. Stanton to define Regionalization.

Regarding this, Alcosan will assume ownership, operations and maintenance responsibilities of multi-municipal sewer pipes over 10” in diameter.

ACHD sent a 2 year interim order stating that by December 2017 the Health Department and DEP want each municipality to conduct a limited flow study and included in this each municipality will be required to implement a demonstration project by August 2017. The letter states that a project completed within 2 years would qualify.

The issue is, to sign the Consent Order or not.

Mayor Dismukes asked what the threat would be to not signing this Order. The threat discussed is enforcement action by the EPA (Clean Water) since we contribute to downstream overflows. This Consent Order will help to insulate the Borough from law suits in the future regarding overflows in the system.

Mr. Stanton noted that the new Consent Order and Agreement (COA) are due back to ACHD signed by December 15, 2015.

Mr. Davis asked how much a source flow reduction study and demonstration project would cost the Borough in order to put us into compliance. LSSE representatives noted that they feel approximately \$5,000.00 would cover the costs. Flow monitoring would take place overnight to reduce water usage by residents.

Mrs. Raves was asked to verify the final payment date of the sewer project behind Stratford Road.

Mr. Davis noted that completion of a pipe lining project will put us into compliance with this new order and this is covered in our O&M project. LSSE noted that the estimated cost for paragraphs A – L compliance will be approximately \$5,000.00.

Mr. Cuteri **made a motion** to move to adopt a resolution and to sign the COA at the December meeting. **Mr. Berardi seconds the motion. The motion passed unanimously.**

Council entered into Executive Session at 8:08 Pm

The meeting resumed at 8:23 PM.

LSSE reported that they approved both the 2nd and 3rd (final) payment from T.A. Robinson regarding the 2015 roadway project on Wilson Drive. Mr. Firek sent a letter to AIM stating that the project is complete to obtain the final draw down of the loan.

- 8. Budget:** The committee presented a budget of \$982,580 to Council. Mr. Berardi **made a motion to** advertise the budget as presented for approval at the December meeting. **Mr. Kolenda seconds the motion.** Mayor Dismukes pointed out the \$633,000 includes paving of Wilson and Oxford Roads. Mr. Cuteri questioned the \$400,000 loans and the street figures. Mrs. Raves noted that two loans would be sought after and money not used in the 2015 budget would be added to next year's streets figure to make up the sum to finish paving Wilson Drive and the length of Oxford Road. **The motion passed unanimously.**
- 9. Tax Levy:** Mr. Berardi **made a motion** to advertise the 2016 Ordinance for the Tax Levy as it stands today at 7.95 Mills. **Mr. Cuteri seconds the motion. The motion passed unanimously.**
- 10. Avalon Contracts:** Both the PA One Call and the Street Plowing/Salting Contracts are up for renewal. Mr. Davis **made a motion** to approve and sign the new PA One Call contract submitted to Council for review by Email. **Mr. Keelan seconds the motion.** Mrs. Raves noted that the call out fee has increased by \$10.00 but that their rates have not increased in the last four years. **The motion passed unanimously.**
Mr. Davis made a motion to approve and sign the Snow Removal and Street Salting Contracts submitted to Council for review by email. **Mr. Berardi seconds the motion.** Mrs. Raves noted that the call out payment fees has not increased from last year and salt prices have been reduced by \$10.00 per ton. **The motion passed unanimously.**

11. Acord budget: Mr. Keelan ***made a motion*** to approve the 2016 budget submitted by the Avonworth Community Park. ***Mr. Cuteri seconds the motion. The motion passed unanimously.*** Mayor Dismukes noted that Mr. Ed Gould previously informed him that he will be stepping down as Chair from the Board at the park after many successfully productive years. Mayor Dismukes noted that Mrs. Eadie had made the same comment; therefore, we will only have two of our four seats on this board filled. Both Mr. Bernauer and Mr. Spoharski are still on the board. Mrs. Raves was asked to forward an email blast to the community asking for volunteers.
12. Road Sign discussion: Council reviewed the results of the online poll. The cast aluminum signs with square corners were the leading sign type. Council noted that the black letters on a white background is substantially more visible in the dark. It was decided that Mr. Radcliffe should obtain a formal bid from Lake Shore Industries for the cast aluminum signs based on the Borough's actual sign needs. Mr. Radcliffe and Mrs. Raves will meet to review this list. Council is preparing to bid installation of signs as well as the purchasing and installation of sign poles and break away bases including concrete, in 2016. Mr. Davis and Mr. Cuteri will prepare the specifications for bidding.
13. Christmas Luncheon: All Council members are welcome on December 11th at Shannopin Country Club.
14. Voting results: Mr. Davis noted to Mr. Eadie that we believe has won the 2 year Council term beginning January 1, 2015 and that Mr. Berardi, Mr. Radcliffe and Mrs. Smith have been elected to four year terms.
15. Solicitors Fee: Tucker Arnsberg is requesting a 10% increase in their fees effective January 1, 2016. Council approved this increase.
16. Staff Salary: Council reviewed Mrs. Raves' salary and informed her that they would be giving her a \$2,000 bonus for 2015 and a 10% increase in salary for 2016.

This meeting ended at 9:09 PM

The next monthly meeting is Wednesday December 9th, 7:00 at Shannopin Country Club.

Submitted by Denise Raves, Secretary